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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1347
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0273
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 001722

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, S/WE (MEHRA, LANE)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KWMN](#) [UNGA](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [RP](#)
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE RESPONSE TO WOMEN LEADERS WORKING GROUP
2008 MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 74172

1. (SBU) Though there is no final confirmation yet, President Arroyo will most likely attend the 2008 UN General Assembly (UNGA), and therefore Malacanang Palace will give full consideration to her participation in the Women Leaders Working Group, according to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) United Nations and International Organizations Director Leah Ruiz. President Arroyo attended the Working Group breakfast September 28, 2007, and has a record of interest in the Working Group, Ruiz said. Ruiz noted two factors that make President Arroyo's attendance likely: the DFA had made a strong recommendation that President Arroyo attend the UNGA 2008, and she has received a tentative speaking slot on the first day high-level leaders deliver speeches to the UNGA. Ruiz concluded that, assuming President Arroyo attends the UNGA, the odds of her participating in the Working Group (once she receives an invitation) were also good. Ruiz agreed to follow up once the DFA has final confirmation of President Arroyo's attendance.

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